

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER.



SNAPCHAT'S NEW AI CHATBOT AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

Snapchat has introduced a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot called "My AI" designed to help users with various tasks through their messaging section in the Snapchat app.

While this new feature can be helpful, there are some potential risks to young people who use this feature. In [this article](#), [Childnet](#) explores the latest AI chatbot on Snapchat and its potential impact on young people.

What do I need to know about ChatGPT? Childnet's guide for parents and carers

ChatGPT is an artificial intelligence chatbot which can be found online. Similarly to a robotic customer service often found on the corner of a website or app, ChatGPT generates content and answers based on a user's question.

[This article](#) discusses why it's important for parents and carers to talk with young people about how to use ChatGPT in an educational and safe way.



UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO ONLINE CHALLENGES

When a viral challenge is reported in the news or on social media, it can be difficult to establish the facts, risks, and what you need to do to protect the young people in your care.

iNEQE Safeguarding Group has published [an article](#) to explain what you need to know and how to respond to online challenges. The good news is that most online challenges will burn out and lose popularity!

'While these challenges often die out in a short space of time, it's vital that those with children and young people in their care understand what these challenges are, and how to respond accordingly.'

SWIGGLE-CHILD FRIENDLY SEARCH ENGINE

This is an **ad-free search engine** designed specifically for young children taking their first steps on the internet.

'Powered by Google Custom Search, the results are filtered using Google SafeSearch and educational resources prioritised. We also filter the search terms to check that Swiggle is not being used to search for inappropriate content.'

REPORT REMOVE

Report Remove has been designed to help young people under 18 in the UK to confidentially report sexual images and videos of themselves and remove them from the internet. The Report Remove tool can be used by any young person under 18 to report a nude image or video of themselves that has appeared online. The IWF (Internet Watch Foundation) will then review this content and work to have it removed if it breaks the law.

SETTING PARENTAL CONTROLS

The **UK Safer Internet Centre** has published a guide for parents on using parental controls to keep your child safe. Parental controls are designed to help protect children from inappropriate content online, such as pornography, age restricted apps, or other adult content. These controls can be used in various ways, for example to help ensure that children access only age-appropriate content, to set usage times, to monitor activity, or to help prevent in-app purchases.

Childnet has also published information and key advice on parental controls for parents and carers.

Free practical guides from **Internet Matters** will show you how to set up parental controls on various platforms and provide help with many filtering options, including how to set time and age limits, block certain content, lock settings with a password or PIN, and activate restricted modes where available.



REPORTING ONLINE GROOMING AND SEXUAL ABUSE

If you're worried that your child is being **groomed** online or **sexually exploited** you should **report your concerns to CEOP**.

CEOP is part of the National Crime Agency and can investigate what is happening – with the assurance that the safety and wellbeing of your child is paramount at all times.

It is not always easy to spot the signs of online grooming and sexual exploitation so if you have any concern at all about someone your child is in contact with, you should get in touch right away.

You should always report if your child is or has been in contact with someone who is:

- Chatting online to your child about sex
- Asking them to do sexual things on webcam
- Asking to meet up if they've only met them online
- Requesting sexual pictures
- Forcing them into sexual activity
- Making them feel unsafe

You can make a report to CEOP using the **CEOP Safety Centre**.

If you are concerned that your child is in immediate danger, call 999.

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at **wellbeing@hfleducation.org** or call **01438 544464**.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.